



The President's Daily Brief

5 October 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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(information as of 2000 EDT 4 October)

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Egyptian leaders want to sustain the US peace initiative but not at the expense of domestic stability. *(Page 1)*

Each side is competing for support in the aftermath of the Bolivian coup attempt. *(Page 2)*

In Cambodia, the enemy appears to be preparing for large-scale attacks against the government column on Route 6. *(Page 3)*

U-2 photography of 3 October reveals no significant new activity in Cuba. *(Page 4)*

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MIDDLE EAST

Acting President Sadat told Secretary Richardson in Cairo Friday that he intends to continue Nasir's search for a peace settlement along the lines of the US initiative. He said Egypt hopes for an early resumption of the Jarring talks. Sadat was willing to discuss a formula for rectification of the missile situation, but he stressed that he could not ask the military to remove "even one missile" from the canal zone. The serious destruction caused by the Israelis before the cease-fire required that strong defenses be maintained along the canal.

Foreign Affairs Adviser Fawzi, meeting with Ambassador McCloy, also stressed that Egypt wants to maintain the momentum of the peace initiative. Like Sadat, however, Fawzi saw little hope that missiles could be withdrawn from the canal zone. He was not in a position "to deny or confirm a buildup," but any unilateral Egyptian withdrawal of weapons could provoke a reaction from extremists that the new leadership would be hard pressed to handle. He did say that rectifications might be possible if Egypt were convinced that Israel really accepted the principle of no expansion or if Egypt believed the US were willing to apply pressure on Israel to this end.

Egypt's leaders appear to be genuinely interested in sustaining the US peace initiative and the cease-fire. At a minimum, they fear renewed hostilities at a time when they are wrestling with the succession problem and other uncertainties in the post-Nasir period. By the same token, their concern for domestic stability makes it unlikely that the Egyptians will make obvious compromises to get the talks going again.

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The Jordanian Army is releasing thousands of fedayeen prisoners as it pulls back from Jordanian cities. The fedayeen still say they intend to implement the peace agreement, which may mean that army prisoners will be released soon. Amman is returning to normal, although fedayeen remain entrenched in some refugee areas and concentrations of army armored units linger at various points just outside the city.

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BOLIVIA

The revolt that has been smoldering for months within the military against President Ovando moved toward a showdown Sunday morning when a group of middle level officers issued a communique demanding Ovando's resignation. The decision for this move was made Saturday at a meeting presided over by Army Commander Miranda. The officers had anticipated that the majority of units in the La Paz area would join their cause. When their demands were publicized, however, the defense minister, presidential guard commander, and various provincial commanders issued counter demands that the rebels lay down their arms. Since then there has been a rash of conflicting statements of support, making it impossible to estimate the strength of either side.

The signers of the communique are largely middle and junior grade officers, including the son of Interior Minister Ayoroa. Major Cayoja seems to be the leader, but he is probably acting as a front man for Miranda. Cayoja returned from the US Command and General Staff College last June and has been described as pro-American.

The cabinet met in emergency session Sunday and in the afternoon Miranda held a press conference calling on Ovando to admit defeat and resign. The executive committee of the Bolivian Labor Center also was in session yesterday and all affiliated unions claim to be in a state of emergency. University students claim they will support whatever action the unions decide to take. Ovando was expected in La Paz late Sunday and his return will set the stage for the next development in the crisis. So far, there have been no major disturbances in La Paz.

Miranda has had several confrontations with Ovando in recent months, but he has yielded each time when it appeared that Ovando's ouster might trigger a civil war. This time, however, he is more heavily committed and probably will be less inclined to back down. If Ovando can survive the challenge, he will emerge with more freedom of action than he has previously enjoyed in his year as president. If Miranda's forces are victorious, they probably will establish a more moderate military rule while preparations are made for a return to a civilian constitutional government.

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CAMBODIA

Recently intercepted Communist messages indicate that the government column along Route 6 is being kept under constant surveillance "in preparation for upcoming operations."

Large numbers of Communist troops have been spotted for the first time west of the road, and the location of the North Vietnamese 174th Regiment headquarters has been confirmed within striking distance of the government convoy. The rapid movement of the 174th Regiment from its base in southeastern Kratie Province suggests that the Communists are now attaching some priority to the fighting along Route 6.

Government troops continue to dig in near Tang Kouk village, and there is no information as to when northward movement will be resumed. The apparent diffidence of Cambodian commanders may be reinforced by recent reports that villagers between Tang Kouk and Kompong Thom are cooperating increasingly with the enemy and that the Vietnamese Communists have promised them that action will be taken to prevent the column from pressing on to Kompong Thom.

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NOTE

Cuba: A U-2 photographic mission was flown over Cuba on 3 October. No significant new activity was observed. No further U-2 coverage is scheduled until at least 6 October.

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